

Introduction and Welcome to the 1997 Natural Gas Conference

Keynote Address

by
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Introduction by Hugh D. Guthrie (FETC Senior Management and Technical Advisor)

FETC Director Rita Bajura is about to extend a welcome on behalf of the Department of Energy. When I think about Rita, I recall my first visit to London many years ago. There was a little library, and in it was a set of the original *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Being an engineer, I looked up “engineering.” I found the best definition of engineering I have ever seen: “Engineering is the art and science of weaving technology into the fabric of society.” I think these are appropriate words to use for Rita, because she is the new director under which we are combining two energy centers—at Morgantown in West Virginia, and at Pittsburgh—into a single Federal Energy Technology Center. Rita brings to this task her deep philosophy, feeling, and practice that if the Department of Energy is going to succeed in developing technology, it must do so by partnering with industry. That’s her philosophy about how to weave technology into the fabric of society. Rita, the floor is yours.

Address by Rita Bajura

Thank you, Hugh. Whenever Hugh introduces people, he leaves himself open to Hugh Guthrie stories. Those of you who know Hugh know that he has an over 50-year history with the oil and gas industry. There are all sorts of Hugh Guthrie stories floating around. The legends of his golf game—how do I say it—are classic. Some stories of his golf scores are like his scores over 50 years in the oil and gas industry, really an outstanding accomplishment.

On behalf of the Federal Energy Technology Center, I welcome you to our Natural Gas Conference. We have nearly 300 registrants. I extend a special greeting to our international visitors, from Russia, Egypt, Canada, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

The Federal Energy Technology Center is the new kid on the block. We were born in December from the consolidation of the former Pittsburgh Energy Technology Center and the Morgantown Energy Technology Center. Our 1997 budget is nearly \$850 million. We have 560 Federal employees and nearly the same number in support-service contract employees. We have

over 600 projects in 38 states. They cover gas- and coal-fueled power systems, natural gas fuels, coal fuels, and some projects in environmental management that are cleaning up DOE's legacy of 50 years in the nuclear industry.

In the natural gas supply program, our goal is to work on projects that both meet the needs of industry and support the rational public policy goal—that is, to ensure a secure supply of low-cost energy in an environmentally sound manner. The technical presentations that you will hear over the next few days represent the congruence of these two objectives: meeting industry needs and meeting our public policy goal. The leveraging of DOE's dollars with your dollars in industry to meet these goals is what this conference is all about—transferring what we have learned in these joint DOE-industry projects back to you. You will have the opportunity to hear over 50 technical papers. These represent about a \$20 million-per-year investment in natural gas R&D funding. Any papers you miss will be available in the conference proceedings, which we will distribute on CD-ROM.

We are most pleased to be here in Houston, Texas, the heart and soul of the oil and gas industry. I'd like to introduce the DOE Management Team. From Headquarters, we have Sandra Waisley, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oil and Gas. Also from Headquarters, we have Guido deHoratiis, the Upstream and Downstream Program Manager. We also have Peter Cover, Director for Strategic Planning for Oil and Gas.

From the Federal Energy Technology Center, we have Joe Strakey, who heads the Office of Product Management for Fuels and Specialty Markets. Joe's staff includes Hugh Guthrie and Greg Kawalkin. Also reporting to Joe is Chuck Komar, Product Manager for Upstream Natural Gas, and Venkat Venkataraman, Product Manager for Downstream Gas. Tom Torkos, head of FETC's Office of Project Management, is here. Reporting to him is Bill Lawson, director of the Fuel Resources Division. We also have Leonard Graham, who heads the Office of Communication.

We also have Tom Wesson, who heads the former Bartlesville Project Office, which is now the National Petroleum Technology Transfer Center, and which is moving to Tulsa, Oklahoma. And over there are the DOE Team who bring you these conferences, who work as Project Managers, and who help you day-to-day.

During this conference, we very much solicit your feedback about our natural gas programs. We need to know your technical needs, what you think needs to be done, and how we can best meet those needs. My staff and I are available. We solicit your input, your ideas on how we can make the program better, and how we can better-fashion a natural gas program that meets both your needs and all our public policy goals. I wish you a pleasant and productive conference, and thank you.